

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00

JUSE-00 ACDA-07 /073 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4052

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDIP, CSCE, YU, US, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PROTEST REGARDING CROAT NATIONALIST

TERRORIST ATTACK ON YUGOSLAVIA'S MISSION

REF: A - USUN 1912; B - USUN 1903

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAVIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR LEONARD JUNE 15 TO DELIVER STRONG NOTE OF PROTEST REGARDING JUNE 14 ATTACK AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA'S MISSION BY CROAT TERRORISTS. TEXT OF NOTE IN REF A. FUNDAMENTAL THEME STRESSED BY PETRIC AND NOTE WAS ALLEGED FAILURE OF US AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ADEQUATE MEASURES TO CHECK EFFECTIVELY THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OF USTASHI GROUPS. IN MAKING HIS POINTS, PETRIC CITED THE HISTORY OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES OF MARIJAN BUCONJIC ONE OF THE TERRORISTS CAPTURED ON JUNE 14. (PARA 12 REF B). PETRIC WAS NOT PROTESTING THE DEGREE OF PHYSICAL PROTECTION GIVEN HIS MISSION, IN FACT, HE HAD PERSONALLY THANKED PATROLMAN GAVIN FOR THE LATTER'S SWIFT ACTION TO PURSUE THE TERRORISTS IN THE YUGOSLAV MISSION ON JUNE 14. PETRIC STRESSED THAT THE USTASHI ACTS WERE INTENDED TO SPOIL DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT FAILURE OF
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AUTHORITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO STOP SUCH ATTACKS HAD BEEN THE BASIC ELEMENT EXERCISING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. PETRIC URGED THAT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES MONITOR CLOSELY THE MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF KNOWN USTASHI TERRORISTS. LEONARD STRESSED DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THE WOUNDED YUGOSLAV MEDIC AND REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT AS A WHOLE. HE ASSURED PETRIC THAT A DETERIORATION OF US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AS A

RESULT OF THE ATTACK WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO US. LEONARD ALSO STRESSED THAT NEITHER DID WE WANT THE ATMOSPHERE IN BELGRADE FOR THE CSCE MEETING TO BE AFFECTED BY IT. HE TOOK FULL NOTE OF THE NEED FOR ACTION TO CHECK TERRORIST ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. PETRIC, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY YUGOSLAVIA'S DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MINISTER MUJEZINOVIC, SAID THAT US AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN NOTIFIED THAT HOSTILE ACTION WAS LIKELY IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING OF BELGRADE CSCE MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO LEONARD'S QUESTION, THE YUGOSLAVS SAID THAT YUGOSLAV MISSION HAD NOT INFORMED THE NYC POLICE, BUT RATHER CONSUL VUKOVIC OF YUGOSLAVIA'S NEW YORK CONSULATE GENERAL HAD DONE SO. MISOFF LATER CHECKED WITH VUKOVIC ABOUT THIS. VUKOVIC SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO CONTACT IN NYC POLICE INTELLIGENCE UNIT ON JUNE 13 ABOUT REPORT FROM BELGRADE THAT HOSTILE ACTIVITY AGAINST YUGOSLAV OFFICES "PROBABLY IN EUROPE" WAS TO BE EXPECTED. VUKOVIC SAID HE HAD ALSO ASKED POLICE TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR MOVEMENTS BY KNOWN ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS WITH NYC POLICE AND VUKOVIC WAS RELUCTANT AT THIS TIME TO GIVE NAME OF CONTACT.

3. LEONARD AND PETRIC DISCUSSED WAYS BY WHICH ATTACKS MIGHT BE STOPPED. WHEN LEONARD SUGGESTED THAT NYC POLICE ON DUTY AT YUGOSLAV MISSION MIGHT CHECK VISITORS FOR WEAPONS AT DOOR, PETRIC DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HE SAID SUCH DUTIES SHOULD FALL TO YUGOSLAVS IN BUILDING. AS ALREADY NOTED, PETRIC CONSIDERED THAT PATROLMAN GAVIN HAD ACTED MOST EFFECTIVELY ON JUNE 14 IN PURSUING TERRORISTS WHEN HE HEARD SHOTS WITHIN BUILDING. WHAT PETRIC EMPHASIZED AND REEMPHASIZED WAS NEED TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF KNOWN TERRORISTS WITH A VIEW TO FORESTALLING REPETITIVE TERRORIST ACTS BY SUCH PERSONS. HE SAID THAT THE THREE TERRORISTS, JOZO BREKALO, MARIJAN BUCONJIC, AND VLADIMIR DIZDAR, WERE MEMBERS OF THE "HRVATSKI OSLOBODILACKI POKRET" (CROATIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT) WORKING AS A TRIO AS IS TYPICAL IN THAT USTASHI ORGANIZATION. HAD THEIR ACTIVITIES BEEN MONITORED PROPERLY, THEIR ATTACK ON THE YUGOSLAV MISSION WITH ALL ITS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. IN PETRIC'S VIEW, THESE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES INCLUDED A MASSIVE PRESENCE OF NYC POLICE IN THE YUGOSLAV MISSION AND IN THE EXCITEMENT, UNHAPPY EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE POLICE AND YUGOSLAV MISSION PERSONNEL. LEONARD RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO CHECK CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. HE SAID THAT POLITICAL ACTIVISTS UNDER OUR SYSTEM AND CONSTITUTION ARE FREE TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN KINDS OF ACTIVITY, BUT NOT THE TERRORIST KIND. PETRIC SAID HE HAD SERVED TWICE IN THE US AND UNDERSTOOD OUR SYSTEM.

4. PETRIC SAID THAT THE WOUNDED MEDIC WAS IN REASONABLY

GOOD CONDITION, BUT STILL HAD THE BULLET LODGED NEAR THE BASE OF HIS SPINE AND THIS WAS YET TO BE REMOVED. PETRIC SAID THAT THE MEDIC HAD OPENED THE FRONT DOOR INITIALLY FOR THE TRIO BECAUSE HE HAD MISTAKEN BUCONJIC FOR THE HUSBAND OF A WELL-KNOWN YUGOSLAV ACTRESS. WHEN HE REALIZED HIS MISTAKE, THE ATTACKERS HAD THROWN HIM TO THE GROUND AND SHOT HIM. PETRIC CONTINUED THAT WHEN MEDIC HAD RISEN AND GRAPPLED WITH BUCONJIC FOR THE GUN ANOTHER SHOT HAD GONE OFF INTO THE CEILING.

5. LEONARD SAID THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE DUE TO BE ARRAIGNED DURING THE DAY. HE SAID THEY REPORTEDLY WERE BEING CHARGED WITH ASSAULT IN THE FIRST DEGREE, ATTEMPTED MURDER, BURGLARY, AND THREE COUNTS EACH OF POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON. (WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT GROUP WAS REMANDED BY MANHATTAN CRIMINAL COURT WITHOUT BAIL FOR GRAND JURY HEARING ON JUNE 22. THE CROATS' LAWYER IS CHARLES GIULINI, CONFIDENTIAL

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310 MADISON AVENUE.)

6. PETRIC SAID THAT A BOMB THREAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY YUGOSLAVIA'S CONSULATE GENERAL ON JUNE 15. LEONARD REGRETTED THIS AND SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY EVENTS SUCH AS THOSE ON JUNE 14 OFTEN TRIGGERED OTHERS TO THINK OF TERRORIST ACTS. LEONARD UNDERSTOOD THE NYC POLICE WERE ACTING ON THIS TREAT ABOUT WHICH US MISSION HAD RECEIVED EARLIER WORD. PETRIC SAID POLICE WERE DOING SO. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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